

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claim 13 in accordance with the following:

1. – 12. (CANCELLED)

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of analyzing three-dimensional structures including a first structure expressed by three-dimensional coordinates of elements belonging to a first point set and a second structure expressed by three-dimensional coordinates of elements belonging to a second point set, comprising:

a) dividing the second point set into a plurality of subsets each having a size that is determined by the size of the first point set;

b) generating a combination of correspondence satisfying a restriction condition between the elements belonging to the first point set and the elements belonging to each of the subsets of the second point set from among all candidates for the combination of correspondence; and

c) calculating a root mean square distance between the elements corresponding in the combination of correspondence generated in the operation b), and

wherein the restriction condition includes a condition such that an attribute value of each of the elements belonging to the first point set coincides with an attribute value of the corresponding element belonging to the second point set in a candidate for combination of correspondence.

14. (ORIGINAL) A method of claim 13, wherein the second point set is divided into the subsets so that the number of elements belonging to each of the subsets is a function of the number of elements belonging to the first point set.

15. (ORIGINAL) A method of claim 13, wherein the second point set is divided into the subsets so that a spatial size of each of the subsets is nearly equal to a spatial size of the first point set.

16. – 21. (CANCELLED)

22. (WITHDRAWN) An apparatus for analyzing three-dimensional structures including a first structure expressed by three-dimensional coordinates of elements belonging to a first point set and a second structure expressed by three-dimensional coordinates of elements belonging to a second point set, comprising the steps of:

means for dividing the second point set into a plurality of subsets having a size that is determined by the size of the first point set;

means for generating a combination of correspondence satisfying a restriction condition between the elements belonging to the first point set and the elements belonging to each of the subsets of the second point set from among all candidates for the combination of correspondence; and

means for calculating a root mean square distance between the elements corresponding in the combination of correspondence generated by the generating means.

23. (CANCELLED)